

*With 45 Illus Compl*

SEAHAM HARBOUR.

Urban District Council.



# Annual Report

FOR 1904,

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



SEAHAM HARBOUR :

W. J. Young, Printer and Stationer, North Railway Street.

—  
1905.

# To the Members of the Seaham Harbour Urban District Council.

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Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for 1904.

## POPULATION, &c., AT CENSUS 1901.

Population—10,163  
Increase between 1891 and 1901—1,119  
Percentage of increase—12·3  
Area in Acres—1,101  
Number of persons per acre—9·2  
Number of inhabited houses—1313  
Number of persons per house—7·7

The population estimated to June, 1904, was 10,556

## BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during the year was 459, which is 6 less than in 1903; of these births 233 were male and 226 female. The birth rate was 43·4.

## DEATHS.

201 deaths of persons belonging to this district occurred, 82 male and 119 female, which gives a mortality rate of 19·0, the lowest we have yet recorded. The male death rate was 7·76 and the female 11·29. 8 persons belonging to this district died in Easington Workhouse, 2 in Sedgefield Asylum, 2 in Sunderland Infirmary, and 1 in H.M. Prison, Durham. 102, or more than half the total number of deaths registered, were those of children under 5 years of age.

The following table shews the birth and death rates for each month during the year :

	Birthrate	Deathrate		Birthrate	Deathrate
January ..	48·0	14·5	July ..	40·1	15·6
February ..	45·3	17·8	August ..	40·1	25·6
March ..	39·0	15·6	September ..	43·8	16·1
April ..	42·6	11·5	October ..	45·7	23·4
May ..	45·7	11·1	November ..	48·4	23·0
June ..	42·6	19·6	December ..	39·0	16·7

The death rate from phthisis was 1·89, and other tubercular diseases caused 19 deaths, equal to a rate of 1·89. I again draw attention to the fact that tubercular diseases are usually found in dark ill-ventilated houses. Persons suffering from phthisis are a great source of danger unless proper precautions are taken. They should always spit into a vessel containing some disinfectant, or on a piece of rag which can be burned. The expectoration must never be allowed to become dry.

Bronchitis and pneumonia caused 36 deaths, equal to a rate of 3·41, as compared with 3·5 in the previous year. 25 of these deaths were of children under 5 years of age, and in several instances the illness was due to the children having been sent to school in wet weather: a dangerous and unnecessary proceeding.

## ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There was a satisfactory decrease in the mortality from the seven chief zymotic diseases, only 19 deaths having occurred as compared with 40 in the previous year. These deaths were due to the following causes: measles 8, diphtheria 1, enteric fever 1, and diarrhœa 9, which gives a rate of 1·89 as against 3·6 in 1903.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

58 deaths of children under 1 year of age occurred, and the rate per 1000 births registered was 126, the lowest recorded in this district. It compares favourably with 148 in the previous year and 214 in 1897. These deaths were due to the following causes: measles 2, diarrhœa 7, tubercular diseases 11, bronchitis 4, pneumonia 5, dentition 3, catarrh 1, premature birth, congenital debility, and congenital diseases 25.

Now that, unfortunately, such a large number of children are fed artificially, not only the food, but the method of feeding is also of the greatest importance. A feeder with a long rubber tube should never be used, as it is impossible to keep the tube clean, and I have frequently found it blocked with sour curd, a fruitful source of infantile diarrhœa. I recommend one of the boat-shaped feeders with an opening at each end, and a removable teat which can be thoroughly washed. An infant should be fed at regular intervals, but I find that a feeder with a long tube (sometimes a dirty soda water bottle) is generally used, the bottle being filled and laid beside the child who sucks it continuously. This is not possible with the boat-shaped feeder, as the child must be taken up and the bottle held. The having to do this is, I fear, the principal objection to its general use.

The "dumb teat" is another source of danger. A not unusual occurrence is to see it taken off a dirty floor, dipped into a tin of condensed milk, and then put into an unfortunate infant's mouth. Children fed in this way, and brought up in houses not ideal from a hygienic point of view, do not get a fair start in the battle of life, their constitutions are ruined, and they frequently succumb to an illness which would not prove fatal to a robust well-nourished child.

It is a matter for anxious consideration that more than half the deaths registered in this district were of children under 5 years of age. What is the remedy? Sanitary surroundings and the instruction of the future mothers of the race in the laws of health and domestic hygiene, which could easily be done in our elementary schools.

In the following table the chief vital statistics of this district for 1903 and 1904 are compared with those for the administrative County of Durham.



	Seaham Harbour		Administrative County	
	1904	1903	1904	1903
Birth rate .. .. .	43·4	44·5	35·6	35·8
Death rate .. .. .	19·0	20·8	18·3	17·7
Zymotic death rate .. .. .	1·89	3·0	2·59	2·01
Infant mortality rate .. .. .	126	148·0	162	161
Phthisis .. .. .	1·89	0·76	1·07	1·09
Other tubercular diseases .. .. .	1·89	1·7	0·92	0·93
Respiratory diseases .. .. .	3·41	3·5	2·92	3·02

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

43 cases of infectious disease were notified as against 109 in the previous year, a very satisfactory decrease.

13 cases of scarlatina occurred as compared with 56 in 1903. 3 of these occurred in one family and 2 in another. The type was very mild and none of the cases terminated fatally.

I note with pleasure that only 7 cases of diphtheria were notified as against 42 in 1903. These cases occurred in five different houses, and only 1 has been notified since July. Every possible precaution has been taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Only 2 cases of enteric fever occurred, which is satisfactory, especially so when compared with 1901, when the number was 28.

No case of smallpox occurred. The smallpox hospital is kept in readiness, so that if a case should occur it will be promptly isolated.

No case of typhus, puerperal or continued fever has been notified.

During the months of October and November a severe epidemic of measles occurred and caused 8 deaths. I did not recommend the closing of any of the schools. In a thickly populated district like this, I consider closing the schools a measure of doubtful utility when an epidemic of measles exists. The first few cases which occur should be isolated and notified to the school attendance officer. No member of an infected family should be permitted to attend school.

1 case of measles, 1 of erysipelas, 1 of enteric, and 1 of scarlatina were treated in the isolation hospital during the year.

## GENERAL SANITATION.

The water is pumped from the magnesian limestone. As usual, the supply was abundant and the quality excellent.

113 middens have been removed during the year, making a total of 346 for the last three years.

The sanitary committee, the surveyor, and myself made a house to house inspection of several streets in the town, and in every case

recommended the Council to order the removal of the middens. On our recommendation the Council issued 113 notices and a good deal of the work has been carried out. I hope to see this course pursued systematically until all the existing middens have been removed, and all improperly paved yards put in a sanitary condition.

The scavenging is done by the Council's employees between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and has been carried out satisfactorily. Part of the refuse is used as manure and the remainder tipped into the sea.

The system of sewerage is still unsatisfactory, but plans for its improvement are now under the consideration of the Council.

39 new houses have been erected during the year, a very important matter, as many of the old ones are not ideal homes for the working classes.

We are a large industrial population, and a working man's health is his capital; I therefore consider that one of the most important duties of the Council is to see that, as far as possible, insanitary surroundings do not rob him of his capital, or undermine the constitution of his children.

There are 3 common lodging houses in the district affording accommodation for 69 lodgers, with an average of 312 cubic feet of air space per head. They have been frequently inspected and found clean and in good order. No case of infectious disease occurred in any of the lodging houses during the year.

There are two dairy farms which have been regularly inspected and found in good order. The cow sheds are well kept and 853 cubic feet of air space allowed for each animal.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are in the district 4 factories, 14 workshops, and 45 bake-houses. They have been regularly inspected and found generally in a satisfactory condition. Where any sanitary or other defect was discovered, notice was given to have it rectified. In every case the defects have been remedied.

The surveyor has as usual been most zealous in the discharge of his important duties.

Through the kindness of Mr Aird, I am able to append a report on the weather during the year.

## SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

Removal of all middens  
Cementing or asphaltting of all improperly paved yards  
Improvement of present sewerage system

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,

LUKE GERALD DILLON, M.D.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## BIRTHS.

Months	Male	Female	Monthly Totals
January .. ..	23	20	43
February .. ..	21	17	38
March .. ..	14	21	35
April .. ..	19	18	37
May .. ..	15	26	41
June.. ..	17	20	37
July .. ..	21	15	36
August .. ..	19	17	36
September .. ..	24	14	38
October .. ..	21	20	41
November .. ..	24	18	42
December .. ..	15	20	35
YEARLY TOTALS ..	233	226	459

## CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages							Deaths in Public Institu- tions
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox .. ..								
Measles .. ..	8	2	6					
Scarlet Fever .. ..								
Whooping Cough .. ..								
Diphtheria and Membran- ous Croup .. ..	1					1		
Croup .. ..								
Fever { Typhus .. ..	1				1			
Enteric .. ..								
Other continued .. ..								
Epidemic Influenza .. ..								
Cholera .. ..								
Plague .. ..								
Diarrhoea .. ..	9	7	2					
Enteritis .. ..								
Puerperal Fever .. ..								
Erysipelas .. ..								
Other Septic Diseases .. ..								
Phthisis .. ..	19		2	1	6	10		2
Other Tubercular Diseases .. ..	19	11	7			1		
Cancer, malignant disease..	9					3	6	
Bronchitis .. ..	15	4	5			2	4	1
Pneumonia .. ..	21	5	11		1	3	1	
Pleurisy .. ..								
Other Diseases of Respira- tory Organs .. ..								
Alcoholism .. ..	2					2		
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..								
Venereal diseases .. ..	1	1						
Premature Birth .. ..	6	6						
Diseases and accidents of parturition .. ..	1					1		
Heart diseases .. ..	16		1			12	3	1
Accidents .. ..	7		1	1	2	2	1	2
Suicides .. ..	1						1	1
Wilful Murder .. ..	1				1			
Hanging .. ..	1				1			1
All other causes .. ..	64	22	9	3	1	7	22	8
All causes .. ..	202	58	44	5	13	44	38	16



Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and Previous Years.

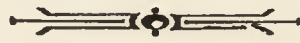
YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT						Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
		Num-ber	Rate	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages								
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate							
1894	9392	354	37.6	66	186	228	24.2				3	231	24.5	
1895	9503	408	42.9	75	183	209	21.9				4	213	22.2	
1896	9614	478	44.5	91	212	207	21.5				8	215	22.3	
1897	9728	397	40.8	85	214	205	21.0				19	224	23.0	
1898	9842	378	38.4	70	185	191	19.4				12	203	20.6	
1899	9957	420	42.1	75	178	196	19.6				10	206	20.6	
1900	10074	424	42.0	74	174	213	21.1				14	227	22.5	
1901	10192	446	43.7	82	183	243	23.8				12	255	25.0	
1902	10312	481	47.6	75	155	195	18.9	1	1		11	205	19.8	
1903	10433	465	44.5	69	148	213	20.4				5	218	20.8	
Averages for years 1894-1903	9904	425	42.4	76	181	210	21.1				9.8	219	22.1	
1904	10556	459	43.4	58	126	187	17.7	1	1		15	201	19.0	



## CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED.

Causes	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 Year and under 5	5 Years and under 15	15 Years and under 25	25 Years and under 65	65 Years and upwards
Smallpox .. ..							
Cholera .. ..							
Diphtheria .. ..	7		2	2	2	1	
Membranous Croup..							
Erysipelas .. ..	21			1	4	14	2
Scarlet Fever ..	13		3	8		2	
FEVERS: Typhus ..							
Enteric ..	2				1	1	
Relapsing ..							
Continued..							
Puerperal ..							
TOTALS FOR YEAR	43		5	11	7	18	2

# INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.



## CASES NOTIFIED EACH MONTH.

Months	Number of Cases Notified	CAUSES			
		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric or Typhoid Fever
January .. ..	4		3	1	
February .. ..	4	2	2		
March .. ..	8	2	2	4	
April .. ..	2		1	1	
May .. ..	4		4		
June .. ..	2		1	1	
July .. ..	2	2			
August .. ..	5		4	1	
September .. ..	1			1	
October .. ..	5		1	2	2
November .. ..	0				
December .. ..	6	1	3	2	
YEARLY TOTALS..	43	7	21	13	2

## SUMMARY of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the Year 1904.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.				Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{ Foul Conditions ..			12		12
	{ Structural Defects			6		6
	{ Overcrowding ..			24		24
Lodging-houses	..	..	..	6		6
Dairies and Milkshops	..	..	..	3		3
Cowsheds	..	..	..	2		2
Bakehouses	..	..	..	6		6
Slaughter-houses	..	..	..	4		4
*Ashpits and Privies	..	..	..	97	16	113
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	..	..	..	8		8
Waterclosets	..	..	..	12		12
Defective Yard Paving	..	..	..	49		49
House Drainage	{ Defective Traps ..			10		10
	{ No Disconnection from Sewers ..			2		2
	{ Other Faults ..			14		14
Water Supply	..	..	..	8		8
Pigsties	..	..	..	3		3
Animals Improperly Kept	..	..	..	8		8
Offensive Trades	..	..	..			
Smoke Nuisances	..	..	..			
Other Nuisances	..	..	..	29		29
TOTALS .. ..				303	16	319

\*46 privies have been replaced by water-closets, and bins provided for ashes. 67 privies have been replaced by ash-closets, with moveable bins. 23 yards have been cemented, 10 asphalted, and 16 repaired.



	Number
<b>2. Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.</b>	
Formal Notices served .. .. .	6
Dwellings dealt with .. .. .	2
Dwellings made habitable after formal notice .. .. .	6
Closing Orders applied for .. .. .	
Closing Orders granted by Magistrates .. .. .	
Dwellings permanently closed .. .. .	
<b>3. Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.</b>	
Action taken, Notices served, &c. .. .. .	8
<b>4. Water, Food and Drugs.</b>	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis .. .. .	
„ „ condemned as unfit for use .. .. .	
Seizure of Unwholesome Food .. .. .	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food .. .. .	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis .. .. .	
„ „ found Adulterated .. .. .	
<b>5. Precautions against Infectious Disease.</b>	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed .. .. .	24
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease .. .. .	29
Schools „ „ „ .. .. .	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things .. .. .	
Convictions „ „ „ .. .. .	

## Weather at Seaham Harbour for the year 1904.

### WIND

The direction is taken twice daily, viz. : 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.  
The 732 (leap year) observations thus taken were in the following proportions :

SW	..	..	155
W ..	..	..	153
SE	..	..	75
NW	..	..	65
S ..	..	..	62
N ..	..	..	49
E ..	..	..	42
NE	..	..	40
Calm	..	..	91

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### TEMPERATURE

Month	Average Maximum	Average Minimum	Mean
January .. ..	44 <sup>o</sup> ·1	35 <sup>o</sup> ·1	39 <sup>o</sup> ·6
February .. ..	41·8	33·8	37·8
March .. ..	45·2	34·9	40·0
April .. ..	53·9	40·1	47·0
May .. ..	55·8	43·3	49·5
June .. ..	59·9	48·0	53·9
July .. ..	66·7	52·8	59·7
August .. ..	65·6	50·9	58·2
September .. ..	61·1	47·3	54·2
October .. ..	56·0	42·6	49·3
November .. ..	48·5	37·9	43·2
December .. ..	43·9	33·3	38·6
MEANS .. ..	53·5	41·7	47·6

Highest, 80<sup>o</sup>·1, on 3rd August ; Lowest, 22<sup>o</sup>·5, on 26th December.

**RAINFALL**

Month	Total	Greatest fall in 24 hours	No. of Days
January .. ..	2·009	·540 on 31st	15
February .. ..	2·143	·300 17th	21
March .. ..	1·154	·320 7th	18
April .. ..	·997	·300 14th	14
May .. ..	2·850	·795 27th	15
June .. ..	1·330	·960 23rd	7
July .. ..	1·449	·325 30th	11
August .. ..	3·385	1·180 22nd	16
September .. ..	·823	·350 24th	5
October .. ..	·533	·170 5 & 6	6
November .. ..	2·518	·660 24th	13
December .. ..	2·050	·432 9th	14
	21·241		155

Average fall for the years 1865 to 1871 inclusive—26·014 inches.

Total for the year 1872—41·620 inches.

Average for the years 1873 to 1904 inclusive—26·423.

„ Number of days on which rain fell—

The year 1900 was the wettest in 38 years, viz., 33·836 (except 1872).  
The following were the next wettest :—

{ 1876 .. ..	39·083
{ 1877 .. ..	32·094
{ 1881 .. ..	31·391
{ 1882 .. ..	30·494
1903 .. ..	32·394

One inch of rain is equal to 1 gallon of water spread over 2 square feet, or 101 tons on an acre of land.

G. H. AIRD.



# **FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.**

## 1—INSPECTION

Premises	Number of		
	Inspection	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)..	48		
Workshops (including Workshop „ ..	140	8	
Workplaces .. .. .			
Homeworkers' Premises .. .. .			
TOTAL .. .. .	188	8	

## 2—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—</i>				
Want of cleanliness.. .. .	5	5		
Want of ventilation .. .. .				
Overcrowding .. .. .	2	2		
Want of drainage of floors ..	1	1		
Other nuisances .. .. .				
Sanitary accommo- dations { insufficient .. .. .	4	4		
{ unsuitable or defective .. .. .				
{ not separate for sexes .. .. .				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101) .. .. .				
Breach of special sanitary require- ments for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100)				
Failure as regards list of out- workers (S. 107) .. .. .				
Giving out work to be done in premises which are				
Unwholesome (S. 108) .. .. .				
Infected (S. 110) .. .. .				
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or smallpox (S. 109)				
Other offences .. .. .				
TOTAL .. .. .	12	12		

## 8—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS	NUMBER
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133) .. .. .	3
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5) {	Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors.
Other .. .. .	
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—	
In use during 1903 .. .. .	
Certificates granted {	In 1903 .. .. . In 1904 .. .. .
In use at the end of 1904 .. .. .	
Homework :—	
Lists of Outworkers (S. 107) :—	
Lists received .. .. .	
Addresses of Outworkers {	forwarded to other Authorities .. received from other Authorities ..
Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—	
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S. 108) .. .. .	
Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises .. .. .	
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110) .. .. .	
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1904.	63
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bake-houses may be enumerated here {	
Total number of workshops on Register ..	63